



Vancouver Island Facts

HOW TO GET HERE

By British Columbia Government ferry from Tsawwassen, about 25 miles south of Vancouver, to Swartz Bay near Sidney, 20 miles north of Victoria.
By British Columbia Government ferry from Horseshoe Bay, about 15 miles north-west of Vancouver, to Nanaimo, 70 miles north of Victoria.
By Black Ball ferry from Port Angeles to Victoria.
By Canadian Pacific Railway ferry from Vancouver to Nanaimo.
By air from Vancouver, and other points, to Patricia Bay Airport, near Sidney. Limousine to Victoria.
Anyone wishing to visit Vancouver Island without their own car can conveniently do so by catching a bus at Pacific Stage Lines depot in downtown Vancouver. Special buses from this depot make regular crossings via Tsawwassen-Swartz Bay ferry to downtown Victoria. From Victoria, buses run on several scheduled scenic tours to a variety of points of interest on southern Vancouver Island. Buses also run from Victoria to all main centres on Vancouver Island.

GEOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE

Lying northwest-southeast, parallel to the mainland of British Columbia, Vancouver Island is about 280 miles long, averages 50 to 80 miles in width, is about 12,400 square miles in area, and comprises about one-thirtieth of the total area of the Province of British Columbia. Its topography is mountainous, with many lakes pocketed in the narrow valleys. Several of these lakes, such as Upper Campbell, Buttle, Great Central, Sproat, Kennedy, Cameron, Cowichan, and Shawnigan, are famous for their scenic beauty and fishing.
On the list of better-known mountains is Mount Arrowsmith (5,962 feet), which dominates the eastern wall of Alberni Valley and is a pleasant climb to a panoramic view of island and mainland terrain. An excellent view can also be had from the summit of Green Mountain (4,808 feet), which is 100 road miles from Victoria and has recently been developed for ski-ing. Mount Golden Hind (7,219 feet), in Strathcona Provincial Park, is the island's highest and presents a challenge to climbers.
The Malahat, a high spot on the Island Highway only 20 miles from Victoria, provides one of the best and most accessible view points. From it can be seen Saanich Peninsula, part of the Gulf Islands, British Columbia mainland points, and several State of Washington landmarks.
Precipitation averages vary from a low of 30 inches on the south-east coast and Gulf Islands to over 100 inches in the north and west. Temperatures average about 50, with summer highs of 70-80-90 degrees. Victoria averages over 2,000 hours of sunshine annually, with the rest of the island receiving about 1,500 hours.

POPULATION

Population of Vancouver Island is approximately 350,000. More than half of this total is concentrated on the southern tip in Greater Victoria, which includes Victoria, capital city of British Columbia, and the surrounding municipalities, districts, and area. Most of the remainder of the population, both urban and rural, is distributed in a narrow strip along the east coast and in the Cities of Duncan, Nanaimo, Port Alberni, and Courtenay.

INDUSTRIES

Logging, mining, fishing, and agriculture are the sustaining industries. Because Vancouver Island is essentially a forest area, forest harvesting is the leading industry. Douglas fir, hemlock, and red cedar are the predominant species contributing to production of lumber, paper, and other wood products.
Inshore and offshore fishermen, working out of numerous ports on both west and east coasts of the island, have access to some of the best fishing grounds on the Pacific coast. Salmon are the most universally known part of the catch, although it includes many other species of fish and some shellfish.
Mining yields mainly copper and iron with percentages of gold, silver, lead, and zinc. Vancouver Island holds large deposits of coal, but mining of this commodity has declined during latter years.
Due to rough terrain, generally narrow valleys, and a lack of rich soil, agriculture is limited to small farms producing dairy products, poultry, small fruits, vegetables, cut flowers and bulbs. Saanich Peninsula, north of Victoria, is a particularly pretty sight in early spring when fields of daffodils and other bulbs are in bloom. Countless homes across the continent are brightened at Christmas by holly, also grown successfully in this area.

HISTORY

Credit for the discovery of Vancouver Island goes to Captain Cook, of the British Navy, who landed at Nootka in 1778. Spanish explorers also navigated in the vicinity about the same time. As a result of this, many coastal features of the island and its approaches bear Spanish names today. Juan de Fuca Strait, Quadra Island, and Alberni Inlet are typical examples.
The island is named after Captain Vancouver, also of the British Navy, who conducted much of the early exploration of island waters during the period 1791 to 1795. Names of a multitude of islands, inlets, and passages, familiar to all coastwise mariners, keep alive the names of many of Captain Vancouver's officers, crewmen, and friends.
Victoria City developed from the establishment of Fort Victoria in 1843. James Douglas, who was responsible for the establishment of the fort, later became Governor of Vancouver Island, which was declared a Crown Colony in 1849.
Discoveries of coal in 1852, and later, spurred the inception and development of Nanaimo, Ladysmith, and several other up-island communities. As the use of coal declined, these centres were sustained by rich timber harvests from the surrounding forest.
Earliest records show that ships' masts, for local and export use, were cut in the vicinity of Sproat Lake, in Alberni Valley, and that attempts were made to develop this valley for agricultural use. Alberni Valley was also the site of British Columbia's first paper-mill from 1892 to 1896. This original paper-mill made paper from rags shipped from Britain, and ceased to operate because of the difficulty of obtaining raw material, and because the operators felt that a sufficient local supply of raw material did not exist. Today, Port Alberni is the site of a modern pulp-mill, sawmills, and a plywood plant, all deriving their raw material from the forest which seemed so useless to pioneer papermen, and which grows so well on soil too poor for agriculture.
The history of Vancouver Island in a nutshell is—curiosity led men to discover it. Minerals and abortive agricultural development began its settlement and exploitation. Its rugged, forested mountains at first impeded progress, but finally became the key to its prosperity. These same forested mountains, the streams, lakes, and glades within them, and the sea around them, are the fundamentals which lend peace and beauty to our Provincial parks. We hope you will enjoy them as pleasant places to sojourn while you discover Vancouver Island for yourself.

WILLIAM C. WONDERS
MAP COLLECTION
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NOTE.—Roads shown as broken red lines are company roads. Public use of these roads is limited to non-working hours, usually 5 p.m. to 7 a.m., week-ends, and holidays. Inquire locally before using a limited-access road.

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ISLAND VANCOUVER ON PARKS PROVINCIAL

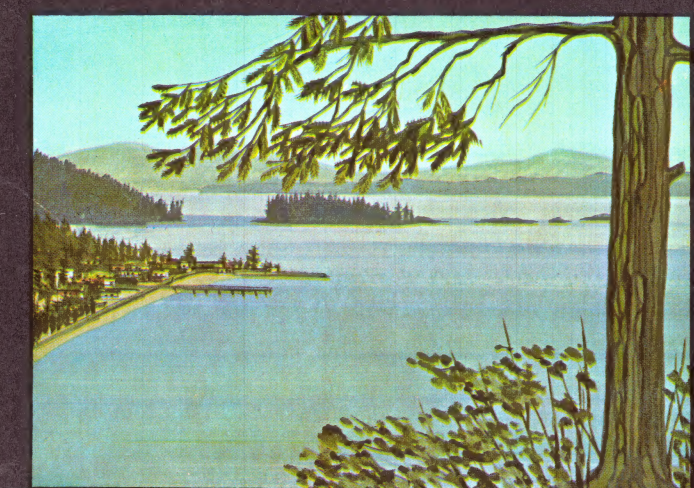
PROVINCIAL PARKS ON VANCOUVER ISLAND

SUGGESTIONS FOR TOURING VANCOUVER ISLAND

- **Entering via Swartz Bay or Victoria.**—Camp a night or two at MacDonald, Goldstream, or Bamerton Parks. Visit John Dean and Gulf View Parks for the view and a picnic. Drive around Saanich Peninsula for lovely pastoral and sea scenes. Drive along the southern coast to Sooke and Jordan River.
- **Entering via Nanaimo.**—Ivy Green, Englishman River, and Little Qualicum Falls Parks are handiest, and excellent bases for exploring Duncan-Lake Cowichan, Nanaimo-Parksville-Qualicum areas.
- **Stamp Falls and Sproat Lake Parks** are good base camps for enjoying Alberni Valley. Long Beach Park, sand and surf of Vancouver Island's west coast, is only 70 miles away.
- **Miracle Beach and Elk Falls Parks** are convenient centres for investigating the east coast. Mariners will find a wealth of pleasure in using the marine parks.



1. **MACDONALD:** 36 camping units. Piped water. On MacDonald Park Road, five minutes from Swartz Bay ferry terminal. A heronry in the trees west of the campground.



2. **GULF VIEW:** Picnicking only, 8 tables. On East Saanich Road, 2 miles south of Sidney. Views of Saanich Peninsula, Gulf Islands, and Washington State mountains.



● **NATURE STUDY.**—A good start is half the battle for budding naturalists. In a few Provincial parks, special provision has been made to help tyro nature students. Miracle Beach Park is one of these. Visit the nature house to see aquariums and other interesting displays. These, conducted nature walks, and literature supplied give many clues to enjoying a fascinating and relaxing hobby. Write to Parks Branch for nature study and conservation information.



● The popularity of our parks has made it difficult for us to keep ahead of public needs. Your co-operation will help. Spend a few days in one park, then move on to another. This will increase your enjoyment of Vancouver Island and give others a chance to enjoy it as well.



● **PARK PROTECTION.**—B.C. parks are yours to use. Please do not abuse them. Use them and enjoy them.



3. **JOHN DEAN:** Picnicking only, 7 tables, 2 fireplaces. Piped water. On East Saanich Road, 2 miles south of Sidney. Trails, wild flowers. Views of Peninsula, Gulf Islands, mountains.



4. **GOLDSTREAM:** 153 camping units, 46 picnic tables. Piped water. Twelve miles north-west of Victoria on Island Highway at foot of Malahat. Nature trails. Goldstream Creek.



5. **BAMBERTON:** 50 camping units, 46 picnic tables. Piped water. Twenty miles from Victoria on Island Highway. Salt-water swimming in Saanich Inlet. Change-house.



6. **MEMORY ISLAND:** Picnicking only. Small island in Shawnigan Lake. Boat access only. Twenty-five miles north-west of Victoria via Island Highway and Shawnigan Lake cut-off.



7. **IVY GREEN:** 51 camping units, 44 picnic tables. Piped water, flush toilets. Two miles north of Ladysmith, 12 miles south of Nanaimo. Stream. On salt water. Waterfowl.



8. **PETROGLYPH:** Picnicking only, 6 tables. Piped water. Site of prehistoric petroglyph carvings. On Island Highway, on southern outskirts of Nanaimo.



9. **NEWCASTLE ISLAND:** 18 camping units, 15 picnic tables. Piped water. A 700-acre island in Nanaimo Harbour. Access by ferry—no cars. Lovely walks. Swimming. Boat moorings.



10. **ENGLISHMAN RIVER:** 100 camping units, 37 picnic tables. Piped water. Three and one-half miles west of Parksville on Alberni Highway and 5 miles on Errington Road. Impressive waterfall. Walks.



11. **LITTLE QUALICUM FALLS:** 100 camping units, 22 picnic tables. Piped water. Twelve miles west of Parksville on Alberni Highway. Multiple waterfall. Picnic shelter. Walks.



12. **CAMERON LAKE:** Picnicking only, 12 tables. On shore of Cameron Lake, on Alberni Highway 14 miles west of Parksville. Trail up Mount Arrowsmith starts nearby. Fishing.



13. **BEAUFORT:** Picnicking only, 5 tables. On shore of Cameron Lake, on Alberni Highway 15 miles west of Parksville.



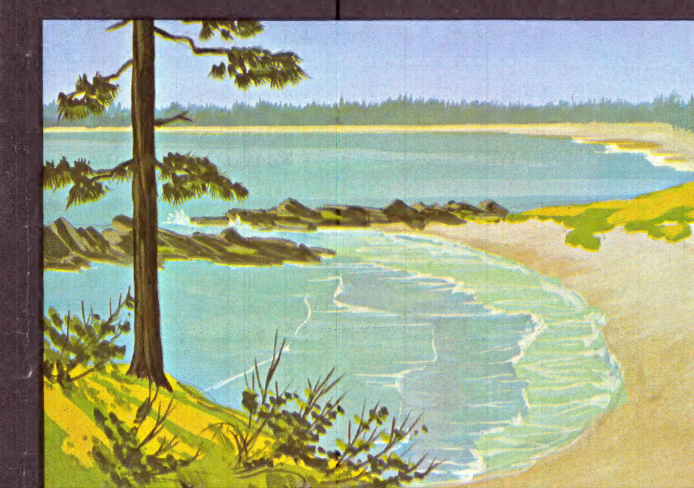
14. **MACMILLAN:** A nature park. Virgin forest preserve. Site of world-famous "Cathedral Grove." On Alberni Highway 20 miles west of Parksville, 8 miles east of Alberni. Walks.



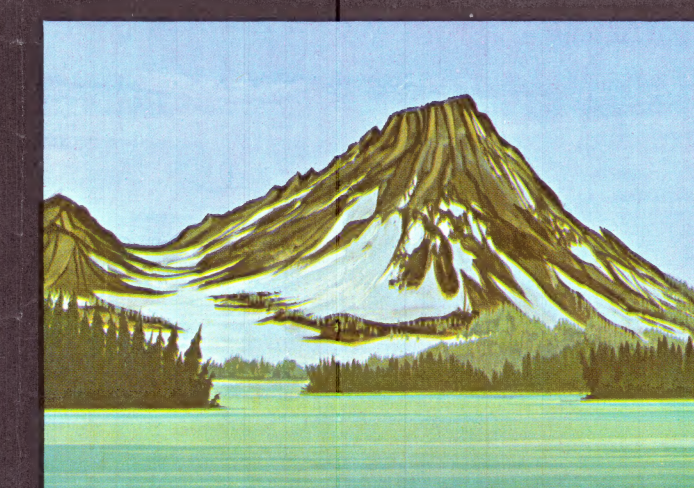
15. **STAMP FALLS:** 20 camping units, 16 picnic tables. Piped water. Fish ladder. Fall salmon run. Fishing. Walks. Nine miles north of Alberni on Beaver Creek Road.



16. **SPROAT LAKE:** 40 camping units, 167 picnic tables. Boat-launching. Swimming. Change-house. Prehistoric petroglyphs. Eight miles west of Alberni on Sproat Lake Road.



17. **RATHREVOR BEACH:** 100 camp-sites, large picnic area, excellent sandy beach. Park is in use although still under development.



18. **STRATHCONA:** Over half a million acres of wilderness, approximately 35 miles from Campbell River via Gold River Road. 32 camp-sites at north end of Buttle Lake and 32 camp-sites at Ralph River, about 15 miles along Buttle Lake Road.



19. **FILLONGLEY:** Undeveloped. A pleasant area of forest and beach on Denman Island. Walks. Swimming. Car ferry from Buckley Bay, 10 miles south of Courtenay.



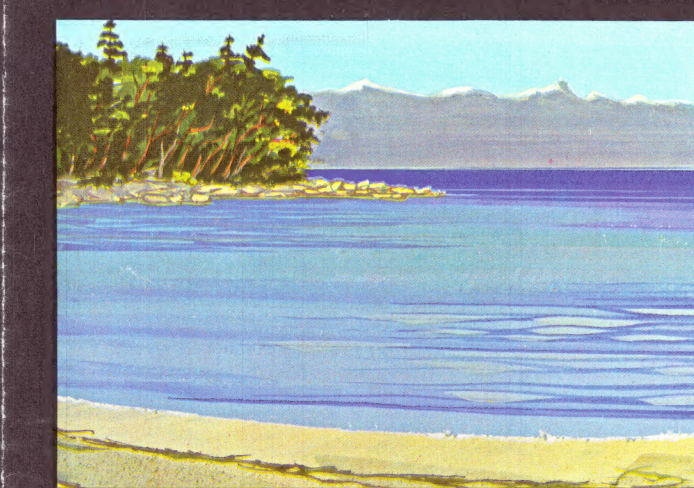
20. **MIRACLE BEACH:** 182 camping units, 76 picnic tables. Piped water. Nature house. Nature walks. Swimming. Change-house. Turn off Island Highway 14 miles north of Courtenay.



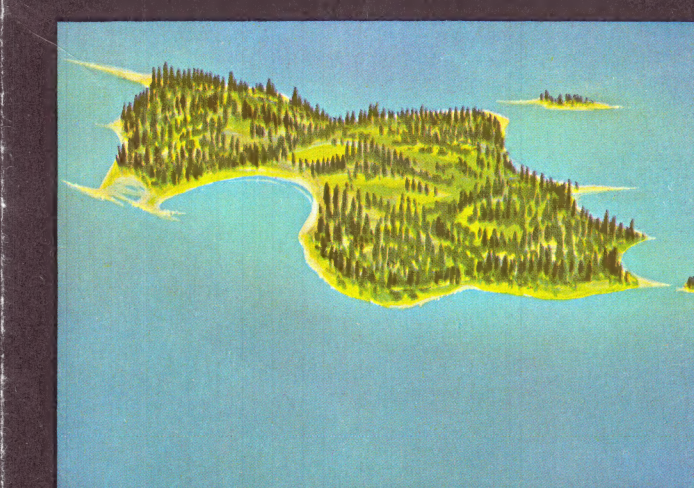
21. **ELK FALLS:** 41 camping units, 5 picnic tables. Piped water. Spectacular falls. Fishing. Powder dam. Four miles northwest of Campbell River.



22. **REBECCA SPIT:** 50 camping units, 11 picnic tables. Marine park. Boat moorings. On Quadra Island off Campbell River. Car ferry from Campbell River. Drinking water.



23. **GABRIOLA SANDS:** Picnicking only, 12 tables. Marine park. Boat moorings. On north end of Gabriola Island, 30 minutes by car ferry from Nanaimo. Drinking water.



24. **TENT ISLAND:** Picnicking only, 4 tables. Marine park. Boat moorings. Small island off south end of Kuper Island, 3 miles east of Chemainus, Vancouver Island. Boat access only. Drinking water.



25. **MONTAGUE HARBOUR:** 31 camping units, 25 picnic tables. Marine park. Lagoon-like bay. Boat moorings. On south-west coast of Galiano Island. Car ferry from Swartz Bay. Drinking water.



26. **MOUAT:** 15 camping units, 6 picnic tables. Piped water. At Ganges on Saltspring Island. Lovely harbour. Car ferry from Swartz Bay and Crofton. Scenic round trip.

During the warmer months, the forests of British Columbia become very dry. The danger of starting a forest fire is very great. Please be careful. Always extinguish your campfire, matches, cigarettes, etc. Our forests mean a lot to us—and to you.

- 30. **GORDON BAY:** 13 camp-sites and boat launching ramp. Swimming. Fishing. Drinking water. 9 miles west of Lake Cowichan.
- 31. **MORTON LAKE:** 23 camp-sites, 10 picnic tables. In the Sayward Forest, 17 miles north-west of Campbell River via Highway 19 and gravel road. Swimming, fishing, boating.
- 32. **BEAUMONT MARINE:** 4 camping-sites, 3 picnic tables. Accessible by boat only. Located at Bedwell Harbour on South Pender Island.

● **CAMPING FEES.**—Most parks have overnight camping fees in effect during the period May 15th through Labour Day.

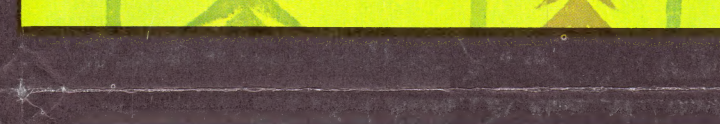
● **LIMIT OF OCCUPANCY.**—No person shall camp in a campground of a Provincial park for a total of more than 14 days in any calendar year.



● For further information on travel in British Columbia, write to Government of British Columbia Department of Travel Industry, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, British Columbia.

● **PARK PROTECTION.**—Please do not pick wild flowers nor cut any trees or shrubs. Leave them as you find them for the next visitor.

● **FOR YOUR PROTECTION.**—Please put your garbage in the cans provided. Please do not feed the bears—they make poor pets.



27. **MOUNT MAXWELL:** Picnicking only, 2 tables. On Salt-spring Island, 6 miles from Ganges. Eagle's eyrie view point of south Vancouver Island, Gulf Islands, and mainland.



28. **PRIOR CENTENNIAL:** 10 camping units. On North Pender Island. Car ferry from Swartz Bay, then short drive down-island.



29. **SIDNEY SPIT:** 6 camping units, 6 picnic tables. Marine park. Boat moorings. On Sidney Island 2 miles east of Sidney. Boat access only.